Requirement and availability of Funds for Road Projects

2185. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between requirement and availability of funds for road projects?

(b) if so, the estimated gap;

(c) the mechanism by which the gap is proposed to be bridged; and

(d) whether private investment is likely to be mobilised therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Central Government is primarily responsible for developement of National Highways. For the 8th Plan, a minimum requirement of Rs. 7730 crores was projected for the development of National Highways but only a sum of Rs. 2460 crores has been allocated. This gap is partly proposed to be bridged by private sector participation in road sector.

Increase in the Population of Rogue Elephants

2186. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of rogue elephants is increasing daily in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as a result of which the lives of the people of these areas are in danger;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed restriction on killing of these rogue elephants and a provision of penality of rupees twenty thousand or more has been fixed for killing them whereas a compensation of rupees five thousand to ten thousand in different States only is paid by the Government to the family of the persons killed by rogue elephants; and

(c) if the answer of parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what measures Government are taking to protect the life and property of the people of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any report of increase in the number of rogue elephants. For people living in the neighbourhood of forests there is always a chance of confrontation with wild elephants, which, sometimes may result in accidental deaths of human beings.

(b) No, Sir. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowers the State Chief Wild Life Warden to authorise killing of any wild elephant that has become dangerous to human life. The penal provision of the Act is for preventing violation of the provisions of the Act. The amount of relief provided to the dependents of victims of accidental deaths caused by wild elephants ranges between 5,000 to 20,000 per case, from State to State according to the norms of the concerned State.

(c) Does not arise. However, some of the steps taken by the government to avoid confrontation between people and elephants are:

(i) Establishment of elephant proof barriers, wherever possible, at the boundary of the forests;

(ii) Driving away of elephants by special squads the State Governments;

(iii) Capture, if required, of problemetic elephants followed by

translocation to safe areas or training them for domestic use, as may be appropriate;

(iv) Financial support by the Central Government to the State Governments on planned activity, proposed by the State Governments, to contain man-elephant conflict;

(v) Payment .of ex-gratia relief, by Central Government, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 per case of human death caused by wild elephants.

Foreign Equity participation in Telecom Service

2187. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the foreign equity participation in basic public telecom service operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indiciating the status in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information collected in July 1994 regarding foreign equity norms in different countries in telecom sector.

1. INDONESIA

Under the liberalised regulations announced by the Government of. Indonesia on 2.6.94, foreign investment upto 95% is permissible in Telecom. The minimum equity holding for Indonesian partner which was earlier 20% was reduced to 5%.

2. AUSTRALIA

There are no restrictions on the foreign ownership for "Service Providers" in Telecom which can be owned upto 100% by foreign companies, "Service Providers" are entities which lease telecom capacity from Licensed carriers and provide full range of Telecom service including voice Services.

However, Australia has permitted two general carriers, one . with 100% Government ownership and other with 51% Australian ownership. In addition, there are three Mobile carriers one with 100% Government ownership, 2nd with 51% Australian ownership and third with 100% foreign ownership. In the case of third Licensed company for mobile carrier, the 100% foreign ownership is required to be changed to majority Australian ownership within 10 years of grant of licence, i.e., by 2003.

3. SRI LANKA

Foreign investments in Telecom Sector upto 40% are approved on automatic basis and foreign investment above 40% are subject to case by case approval.

4. MYANMAR

Myanmar Foreign Investment Law does not allow foreign investment, including joint collaboration/joint ventures, in telecommunications sector, which remains a total monopoly of, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications,a State-owned enterprise. However,multinational companies, such as Erricsson and Siemens, are awarded contracts for projects in the telecommunications sector in myanmar from time to time.

5. GERMANY

So far Telecom Sector has been a government monopoly, A new Law, effective from 1.1.95, providing for privatisation of Telecom has been passed. Under this Law, Government corporation 'Telecom' will offer 49% of its equity on the stock exchange from 1996 onwards retaining 51%. There will be no restrictions for participation by foreign companies in telecom services.

6. FRANCE

In France, regulatory framework of the French telecommunications industry is governed by their Law of December, 90. Under telecommunication network infrastructure, a company with more then